

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

USDC SDNY DOCUMENT ELECTRONICALLY FILED DOC #: DATE FILED: September 20, 2019

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Samantha Siva Kumaran, et al.,	:	
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	:	
Plaintiff(s),	:	19 Civ. 8345 (LGS)
	:	
-against-	:	<u>ORDER</u>
	:	
Northland Energy Trading, LLC, et al.,	:	
	:	
	:	
Defendant(s),	:	
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LORNA G. SCHOFIELD, District Judge:

This case has been assigned to me for all purposes. The parties should abide by this Court's Individual Rules of Practice in Civil Pro Se Cases, which are attached to this Order and can be found on the internet at <http://www.nysd.uscourts.gov/judge/Schofield>.

An initial pretrial conference with the Court will be held at the time and place listed below. Any party proceeding *pro se* (without an attorney) must appear in person. Any party who has retained counsel prior to the conference need not personally attend and should instead have their attorney attend on their behalf. By the date of the initial pretrial conference, counsel for any represented party is required to register as a filing user on ECF. The Clerk of Court shall mail the following documents in addition to the IPTC order to the Plaintiff:

a. Motion for Permission for Electronic Case Filing, at <http://www.nysd.uscourts.gov/file/forms/motion-for-permission-for-electronic-case-filing-for-pro-se-cases>.

b. Pro Se (Nonprisoner) Consent & Registration Form to Receive Documents Electronically, at <http://nysd.uscourts.gov/file/forms/consent-to-electronic-service-for-pro-se-cases>.

The purpose of the conference is to discuss the possibility of settlement, any possible motions the parties may wish to make, and the schedule for discovery. The parties should be prepared to discuss the type of discovery that will likely be sought. **No later than 7 days before the initial pretrial conference**, the parties are directed to confer and jointly submit a proposed case management plan based on the Court's template, which is available at <http://nysd.uscourts.gov/judge/Schofield>.

The parties are further directed to include with the Proposed Civil Case Management Plan a joint letter, not to exceed 5 pages, providing the following information in separate paragraphs:

- (1) A brief statement of the nature of the case, the principal claims and defenses, and the major legal and factual issues that are most important to resolving the case, whether by trial, settlement or dispositive motion;
- (2) A brief statement by Plaintiff as to the basis of subject matter jurisdiction and venue, explaining why Plaintiff believes this matter is properly brought before this Court, and a brief statement by each other party as to the presence or absence of subject matter jurisdiction and venue;
- (3) A brief description of any (i) motions any party seeks or intends to file, including the principal legal and other grounds in support of and opposition to the motion, (ii) pending motions and (iii) other applications that are expected to be made at the status conference;
- (4) A brief description of any discovery that has already taken place, and any discovery that is likely to be admissible under the Federal Rules of Evidence and material to proof of claims and defenses raised in the pleadings. (This is narrower than the general scope of discovery stated in Rule 26(b)(1));
- (5) A computation of each category of damages claimed, *see* Fed. R. Civ. P. 26(a)(1)(A)(iii);
- (6) A statement describing the status of any settlement discussions and whether the parties would like a settlement conference; and
- (7) Any other information that the parties believe may assist this Court in resolving the action.

If this case has been settled or otherwise terminated, the parties are not required to appear if a stipulation of discontinuance, voluntary dismissal, or other proof of termination is sent to Chambers before the date of the conference (Schofield_NYSDChambers@nysd.uscourts.gov).


Any request for an extension or adjournment shall be made only by letter as provided in Pro Se Rule 1.C (*see* below) and must be received at least 48 hours before the deadline or conference. Unless the parties are notified that the conference has been adjourned, it will be held as scheduled.

Any party that is not incarcerated and is appearing pro se (without an attorney) may contact the New York Legal Assistance Group Legal Clinic for Pro Se Litigants in the Southern District of New York, which is a free legal clinic staffed by attorneys and paralegals to assist those who are representing themselves in civil lawsuits in the Southern District of New York. The Clinic, which is not part of or run by the Court, offers in-person consultations. To make an appointment for a consultation, a party shall call (212) 659-6190 or go to the Clinic during its office hours. The Clinic is located at Room LL22, Thurgood Marshall U.S. Courthouse, 40 Foley Square, New York, New York and is open weekdays from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

DATE AND PLACE OF CONFERENCE: November 21, 2019 at 10:40 a.m.in **Courtroom 1106** of the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York, Thurgood Marshall U.S. Courthouse at **40 Foley Square**, New York, New York. Please monitor the docket the day before the conference, as the time may change slightly.

The clerk is directed to mail a copy of this order to the pro se Plaintiff.

Dated: September 20, 2019
New York, New York



LORNA G. SCHOFIELD
UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE

SPECIAL RULES & PRACTICES IN CIVIL *PRO SE* CASES
THE HONORABLE LORNA SCHOFIELD, UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE

Pro Se Intake Unit

United States District Court
Southern District of New York
500 Pearl Street, Room 200
New York, New York 10007
(212) 805-0175

1. Electronic Case Filing for Nonincarcerated Parties

- A. ECF Filing by *Pro Se* Parties.** Any nonincarcerated *pro se* party who wishes to participate in electronic case filing (“ECF”) should complete a Motion for Permission for Electronic Case Filing, available in the *Pro Se* Intake Unit or at <http://nysd.uscourts.gov/file/forms/motion-for-permission-for-electronic-case-filing-for-pro-se-cases>. The form should be mailed to the *Pro Se* Intake Unit, 500 Pearl Street, Room 200, New York, NY, 10007.
- B. Consent to Electronic Service by *Pro Se* Parties.** Any nonincarcerated *pro se* party who wishes to receive documents in their case electronically (by e-mail) instead of by regular mail may consent to electronic service by filing a *Pro Se* (Nonprisoner) Consent & Registration Form to Receive Documents Electronically, available in the *Pro Se* Intake Unit or at <http://nysd.uscourts.gov/file/forms/consent-to-electronic-service-for-pro-se-cases>.

2. Communications

- A. By a *Pro Se* Party.** All communications with the Court by a *pro se* party must be in writing and sent to the *Pro Se* Intake Unit. No documents or Court filings should be sent directly to Chambers. No telephone calls will be accepted by Chambers.
- B. By Parties Represented by Counsel.** Communications with the Court by a represented party shall be governed by Judge Schofield’s Individual Rules and Practices in Civil Cases, available at <http://nysd.uscourts.gov/judge/Schofield>. Except for cases in which the *pro se* party has received permission to participate in ECF, such communications must include a separate proof of service indicating that the *pro se* party was served with a copy of the communication.
- C. Requests for Adjournments or Extensions of Time.** All requests for adjournments or extensions of time must be made in writing and must state: (1) the original date(s); (2) the number of previous requests for adjournment or extension; (3) whether these previous requests were granted or denied; and (4) whether the adversary consents and, if not, the reasons given by the adversary for refusing to consent. Requests for extensions of deadlines regarding a matter that has been referred to a Magistrate Judge shall be directed to that assigned Magistrate Judge. Absent an emergency, any request for adjournment of a court

conference shall be made at least 48 hours prior to the scheduled appearance. Requests for extensions ordinarily will be denied if made after the expiration of the original deadline.

3. Filing of Papers

- A. **By a *Pro Se* Party.** If the *pro se* party is not participating in ECF, all papers to be filed with the Court by a *pro se* party, along with any courtesy copies of those papers, must be sent to the *Pro Se* Intake Unit, United States Courthouse, 500 Pearl Street, Room 200, New York, New York 10007.
- B. **By Parties Represented by Counsel.** Except for cases in which the *pro se* party has received permission to participate in ECF or has consented to electronic service, counsel in *pro se* cases must serve a *pro se* party with a paper copy of any document that is filed electronically and include a separate proof of service indicating that the *pro se* party was served with a copy of the filed document. Submissions filed without proof that the *pro se* party was served will not be considered.

4. Discovery

- A. **Discovery Requests.** All requests for discovery must be sent to counsel for the opposing party. Discovery requests must not be sent to the Court.
- B. **Discovery Disputes.** The parties shall confer amongst themselves with respect to discovery demands prior to raising any issue with the Court. Plaintiff should not contact the Court regarding discovery disputes unless he has first attempted to resolve the issue with the Defendants without the assistance of the Court.

5. Motions

- A. **Filing and Service.** Unless otherwise ordered by the Court, papers filed in opposition to a motion must be served and filed within four weeks of service of the motion papers, and reply papers, if any, must be served and filed within two weeks of receipt of opposition papers.
- B. **Courtesy Copy.** One printed courtesy copy of all parties' motion papers, including exhibits, marked "Courtesy Copy," shall be submitted to Chambers, at the time the reply is served. If a party is represented by counsel, that party shall prepare the courtesy copy and deliver it to the Court Security Officers at the Worth Street entrance to the Daniel P. Moynihan Courthouse. If no party is represented by counsel, the moving party (i.e., the party who made the motion) shall prepare the courtesy copy and deliver it to the *Pro Se* Intake Unit, United States Courthouse, 500 Pearl Street, Room 200, New York, New York 10007. All motion papers shall be double-sided, three-hole punched, tabbed, include the ECF stamp including the date and docket number, if applicable, and placed in a binder in the order that they were filed.

C. *Pro Se* Notices. Parties who file a motion to dismiss, a motion for judgment on the pleadings or a motion for summary judgment must provide the *pro se* party with a copy of the notices required under Local Civil Rules 12.1 or 56.2.

D. Memoranda of Law. All written motions shall be accompanied by a memorandum of law. Unless prior permission has been granted, memoranda of law in support of and in opposition to motions are limited to 25 pages, and reply memoranda are limited to 10 pages. These page limits do not apply to memoranda in support of or opposition to a motion for reargument or reconsideration, which shall not exceed 10 pages, or memoranda in support of or opposition to *in limine* motions, which shall not exceed five pages. Any pages in excess of the application page limit will be disregarded.

6. Initial Case Management Conference. The Court will generally schedule an initial case management conference within three months of the filing of the Complaint. An incarcerated party may not be able to attend this or other conferences, but may be able to participate by telephone or video conference.

7. Trial Documents

A. Joint Pretrial Statement. Unless otherwise ordered by the Court, within 30 days of the completion of discovery, the parties shall file a concise, written Joint Pretrial Statement. This Statement need take no particular form, but it must contain the following: (1) a statement of the facts that each party hopes to prove at trial; (2) a list of all documents or other physical objects that each party plans to put into evidence at trial; and (3) a list of the names and addresses of all witnesses that each party intends to have testify at trial. The Statement must be sworn by the parties to be true and accurate based on the facts known by the parties. If any party is represented, that party shall file the Joint Pretrial Statement. If no party is represented, the parties shall jointly file an original of this Statement with the *Pro Se* Intake Unit.

B. Other Pretrial Filings. At the time of filing the Pretrial Statement, any parties represented by counsel must also submit proposed findings of fact and conclusions of law, if the case is to be tried before only a judge without a jury, or a proposed jury charge, if it will be tried before a jury. The *pro se* party may also file either proposed findings of fact and conclusions of law or a proposed jury charge, but is not required to do so. In all jury cases, the parties also shall file joint proposed case specific voir dire (i.e., jury selection) questions and a one or two paragraph statement describing the case that will be read to the prospective jurors and the beginning of voir dire. The parties need not file generalized jury instructions or voir dire instructions.

If you have any questions about these rules and practices, please contact the *Pro Se* Intake Unit at (212) 805-0175.

Revised. 10/31/2017